

## Message Text

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53

ACTION DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 ORM-02 VO-03 SCA-01

SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00 SY-05

DEAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

EUR-12 /093 W

----- 086518

R 131048Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3255

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL SONGKHLA

AMCONSUL KARACHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 25559

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, TH, XC

SUBJ: INDOCHINESE BOAT CASES

REF: A) BANGKOK 25437; B) SINGAPORE 4223

SUMMARY. SHIP CARRYING 57 REFUGEES DEPARTS FOR MALAYSIA, WHILE  
A NEW ONE REPORTEDLY ARRIVES IN PATTANI. CONSULATE SONGKHLA  
UNDERLINES NEEE FOR MORE REGULAR UNHCR PRESENCE IN SOUTHERN  
THAILAND. END SUMMARY.

1. JAPANESE SHIP "MIGHTY" ARRIVED BANGKOK SEPTEMBER 10 CARRYING  
57 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES (REF A) AFTER REPORTEDLY BEING REFUSED  
ENTRY TO SINGAPORE WITHOUT PLACING \$5,000 BOND DOWN ON EACH ONE,  
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ACCORDING TO MESSAGE WHICH UPI BUREAU CHIEF GALLOWAY IN SINGAPORE

CABLED TO HIS BANGKOK COUNTERPART RTG DID NOT PERMIT PASSENGERS TO DISEMBARK, AND SHIP DEPARTED AFTERNOON SEPTEMBER 11 FOR PORT KELANG, MALAYSIA. IT SHOULD ARRIVE THERE NIGHT SEPTEMBER 14, STAY HALF DAY, DEPART FOR SINGAPORE OR BUTTERWORTH, THEN POSSIBLY GO TO KARACHI. SHIP CAPTAIN MAY TRY TO TRANSFER REFUGEES TO JAPAN-BOUND FREIGHTER IN SINGAPORE, IF GOJ CONCURS.

2. UNHCR INTERVIEWED REFUGEES DURING BRIEF STAY IN BANGKOK. THERE WERE NO ETHNIC CHINESE ABOARD. INDEED, UNHCR CONFIDED THAT ONLY SMALL NUMBER OF THEM WOULD FALL UNDER UNHCR MANDATE IF THAT ORGANIZATION REALLY FOLLOWED ITS OWN DEFINITIONS OF A REFUGEE. UNHCR IS TRANSMITTING RESULTS OF ITS INTERVIEW TO UNHCR KUALA LUMPUR. APPROXIMATELY 10 OF THE 57 WOULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE U.S. PROGRAM. POST WILL SUBMIT INFORMATION SEPARATELY ON THEM TO APPROPRIATE ADDRESSEES.

3. EMBASSY REPEATING BY SEPTTEL MESSAGE FROM CONSULATE SONGKHLA NOTING FAIR RECEPTION ACCORDED BOAT OF 9 REFUGEES WHO ARRIVED THERE SEPTEMBER 9. OUR CONSUL IN SONGKHLA WAS ENCOURAGED BY FAVORABLE IMPACT OF INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE THERE AT THE TIME ON LOCAL OFFICIALS AND URGED THAT UNHCR ESTABLISH MORE PERMANENT PRESENCE IN THE SOUTH, A RECOMMENDATION WITH WHICH WE FULLY CONCUR. UNHCR'S DARRYL HAN, WHO WAS AMONG VISITORS TO SONGKHLA, IS CURRENTLY MAKING A SPECIAL STUDY OF SOUTHEAST ASIA BOAT PROBLEM IN HOPES OF FINDING SOME NEW SOLUTIONS TO THIS THORNY ISSUE.

4. PRESS REPORTED THAT ANOTHER GROUP OF 46 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES RECENTLY ARRIVED IN PATTANI PROVINCE. WE HAVE INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR STATUS.

5. RE REF B, WALL STREET JOURNAL'S BARRY KRAMER HAS BEEN WORKING ON BOAT STORY FOR PAST WEEK. BELIEVE NO ACTION SUCH AS THAT RECOMMENDED REF B NOW REQUIRED IN HONG KONG. IN ADDITION, AP OFFICE IN BANGKOK IS PREPARING A LONG ARTICLE ON THE SAME SUBJECT WHICH SHOULD APPEAR SOON. IN PREPARING ARTICLE AP HAS RECEIVED REPORTS FROM ALL ITS BUREAUS IN THE AREA. WE CONCUR WITH SINGAPORE'S ADMONITION THAT WE WOULD AVOID APPEARANCE OF PUSHING PRESS CAMPAIGN.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 SEP 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** saccheem  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976BANGKO25559  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760344-0986  
**From:** BANGKOK  
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**Line Count:** 99  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION DHA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 BANGKOK 25437, 76 SINGAPORE 4223  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** saccheem  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 12 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <12 MAY 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <09 SEP 2004 by saccheem>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** INDOCHINESE BOAT CASES  
**TAGS:** SREF, TH, XC  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006